

**REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiners, Ms. Elkassabgi and Mr. Le for their courtesy and assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application during an interview conducted June 2, 2004 and attended also by Mr. Tatsuo Nakada, a representative of Hitachi, Ltd., the assignee of this application. As indicated in the Interview Summary, during the interview, a proposed amendment of Claim 1 was considered, and following discussion amongst all participants, it was agreed that, thus amended, Claim 1 appears to distinguish over the prior art of record, including in particular the Kusase et al patent. Accordingly, Claim 1 is now believed to be allowable.

During the interview, certain additional features of the invention were also discussed, including the fact that the individual claws have a substantially rectangular or trapezoidal cross-sectional shape in a radially disposed section plane along the axial direction, in a central portion thereof, while the lateral edges are formed by the auxiliary magnetic pole portions, which have substantially the same shape as the lateral surfaces of the permanent magnets, with which they are in contact.

The latter additional distinguishing features are incorporated in new Claims 10-12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 10-12 are

allowable for the reasons discussed during the interview with regard to Claim 1, and also further distinguish over the Kusase et al reference and other references of record for the reasons set forth hereinabove.

Applicants acknowledged that this application is currently under final rejection. Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, Applicants have submitted herewith a Request for Continued Examination, and therefore respectfully request that further examination of this application proceed in view of the amendments contained herein and the matters discussed above.

With regard to the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings currently show that the lateral surfaces of the claws are in contact with the whole of the rectangular lateral magnetic pole surfaces of the permanent magnets, as recited in Claim 1, for example. This feature of the invention can be seen by a comparison of Figures 2 and 3, as discussed in the specification at page 12, line 18 through the last line on page 13. In particular, Figure 2 shows the substantially rectangular lateral surface of the permanent magnet 7 (which is shown as a dashed line), superimposed on the auxiliary magnetic pole portion 21, which coincides therewith. Thus, it is apparent that the lateral rectangular surfaces of the claws, formed by the auxiliary magnetic pole portions 21 is in contact with the whole of the rectangular lateral magnetic pole surfaces of the permanent

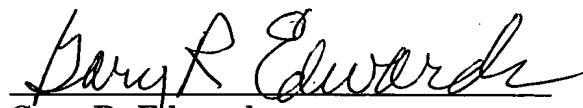
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magnets. This feature is also confirmed by reference to Figure 3. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of objection are respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381KA/50358).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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